

Lucas Hixson

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Emily Albano
Office of Public Affairs
EPA Region 7
913-551-7860
albano.emily@epa.gov

Monday, May 30th, 2016

SUBJECT: FOIA Request - WLL Drainage Features Samples

Dear Ms. Albano;

Pursuant to the federal Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), 5 U.S.C. § 552. et seq. I request the following records:

All records related to the recent "Soil/Sediment Sampling of Drainage Features" around the West Lake Landfill in March 2016 after heavy rains.

"Records" is defined broadly to encompass all print, non-printable, electronically stored information, memoranda, reports, notes, transcripts, laboratory reports, files transferred through 3rd party file sharing sites, electronic mail, CD's, DVD's, Powerpoint Presentations, spreadsheets, photos, videos, drawings, actions documenting oversight, etc.

I don't see why there should be extensive delay in reviewing and releasing these materials and expect all responsive records to be turned over within 20 days, per federal mandate.

I also request that fees be waived pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii), ("Documents shall be furnished without any charge ... if disclosure of the information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester."), since the disclosure is significantly in the public interest, and I don't stand to benefit from it.

I am the Editor-in-Chief for Enformable, a digital news service that has diligently worked to make FOIA documents available to the public online. I have no commercial interest in this information. I routinely make complex information to the public through a variety of platforms and plan to disseminate any information found through this request to the public. I plan to release these documents online and also update local reading room libraries with the information to ensure that the public has immediate access to them. I will also be working with a network of organizations to further spread and disseminate the requested records.

The requested information will significantly contribute to a better public understanding of the operations of the federal government by providing the public with the information the government uses to decide how to act. The EPA has found that radioactively impacted materials have been identified in

the samples, but have not revealed the exact nature or concentrations of materials discovered. This is important information for the public to be able to access. The information should be released as quickly as possible to help public officials and citizens alike to make more informed decisions about ongoing efforts and to raise concerns.

If my request is denied in whole or in part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the act. If my fee waiver request is denied, please inform me in advance if this request is expected to cost more than \$250.00.

I will also expect you to release all aggregable portions of otherwise exempt material. I, of course, reserve the right to appeal your decision to withhold any information or to deny a waiver of fees.

I also request an estimate of how soon I can expect to receive the responsive documents. I requested that the responsive records be sent via email in the form of searchable pdfs, but if it will appreciably reduce the wait time, I'd prefer that hardcopies be sent to me by overnight courier, followed by the pdfs at a later date.

Please provide all applicable records, in their native form, to:

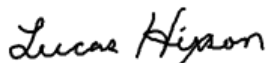
Enformable
Attn: Lucas Hixson
PO Box 273
Bath MI 48808

I will expect your response to this request within 20 business days, as the statute requires.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions at (312) 725-6596 or lhixson@enviromserve.com.

I look forward to working with you on this FOIA request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lucas Hixson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Lucas Hixson
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Editor-in-Chief, Enformable
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